1-35 (cancelled)

~~36~~ 1 (currently amended) A purified antibody that ~~specifically~~ binds with higher affinity to a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13 than to a murine RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

~~37~~. 2 (previously presented) An antibody according to claim ~~36~~ 1, which is a monoclonal antibody.

~~38~~. 16 (currently amended) A method for generating~~preparing~~ an antibody ~~that binds a RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13, wherein the antibody is elicited by~~, said method comprising immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13;

b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;

c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13;

d) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;

e) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13; and

f) a polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13~~; and~~

~~g) a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13~~.

39-41 (cancelled)

~~42~~ 17 (currently amended) A purified antibody that ~~specifically~~ binds with higher affinity to a human RANKL polypeptide than to a murine RANKL polypeptide according to SEQ ID NO:11, wherein said human RANKL polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;

b) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13;

c) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;

d) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13; and

e) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

43. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 42 which is a monoclonal antibody.

44. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

45. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13.

46. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

47. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

48. (previously presented) A composition comprising an antibody according to claim 36.

49. (previously presented) A composition comprising an antibody according to claim 43.

50-52 (cancelled)

53. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

54. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

55. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13.

56. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

57. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

58. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

59. (new) A method of producing a monoclonal antibody according to claim 37, said method comprising culturing a cloned hybridoma cell that produces said antibody.

60. (new) A method of producing a monoclonal antibody according to claim 37, said method comprising injecting into the peritoneal cavity of a rodent a cloned hybridoma cell that produces said antibody.

61. (new) A cloned hybridoma cell that produces a monoclonal antibody according to claim 37.

62. (new) A purified antibody that binds to a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13, but that does not bind to a murine RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

63. (new) A purified antibody that binds with higher affinity to a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13 than to a murine RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:11, wherein said antibody is generated by a method comprising immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13.